

**Rosa Parker**

**Written Testimony in Support of H.B. #5221**

An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission Regarding Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses

My name is Rosa Parker. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My son is incarcerated. He was seventeen yrs. old when he was advised to take the Alford Doctrine Plea. He was sentenced to thirty yrs. in jail. He's now 35 yrs. old. I didn't understand this plea and he didn't either.

I wasn't called or notified when he was arrested and interrogated by the detectives and the police. I never understood why I wasn't called or notified.

He has tried to use these years wisely by working and furthering his education. He was enrolled in the Wesleyan College program. He did receive one certificate. He was unable to finish the courses because he was transferred to another facility. He misses the classes, he's grateful he was given a chance.

He was also one of the inmates that went and served time in VA. He also is a father of a daughter. His daughter lives with me and will graduate this June.

I feel that inmates should be given a second chance with proper monitoring and rehab. I do support this Bill #5221.

Thank you.  
Rosa Parker